

23. (New) A black low thermal expansion high specific rigidity ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the modulus of elasticity is not less than 120 Gpa and the specific rigidity is not less than 50 Gpa·cm³/g.
24. (New) A black low thermal expansion high specific rigidity ceramic sintered body according to claim 2, wherein the chemical composition has such mass ratios as satisfy the relationships of (SiO₂ - 8 x Li₂O)/MgO ≥ 3.65 and (SiO₂ - 8 x Li₂O)/Al₂O₃ ≥ 1.3.
25. (New) A method for the production of a black low thermal expansion high specific rigidity ceramic sintered body set forth in claim 1, wherein the sintered body is formed in an atmosphere of a non-oxidizing gas at a temperature in the range of 1200 - 1500°C.
26. (New) A method for the production of a black low thermal expansion high specific rigidity ceramic sintered body set forth in claim 2, wherein the sintered body is formed in an atmosphere of a non-oxidizing gas at a temperature in the range of 1200 - 1500°C.
27. (New) A method for the production of a black low thermal expansion high specific rigidity ceramic sintered body according to claim 10, wherein the non-oxidizing gas is one or more members selected among argon, helium, nitrogen and hydrogen.
28. (New) A method for the production of a black low thermal expansion high specific rigidity ceramic sintered body according to claim 10, wherein the raw material powder is one or more members selected from the group consisting of cordierite powder, talc, magnesia spinel, magnesia, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium carbonate, Li₂O-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ type powders (petalite, spodumene, and eucryptite), lithium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, alumina powder, silica powder, kaolin powder, and mullite powder.
29. (New) A method for the production of a black low thermal expansion high specific rigidity ceramic sintered body according to claim 10, wherein the sintering method is a hot press method, an HIP method, a gas pressure sintering method, or a normal pressure sintering method.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Versions with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 27, 2001

By: John J. Kelly, Jr.
John J. Kelly, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,182
KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
Telephone No. (212) 425-7200
Facsimile No. (212) 425-5288